



Kent on Sunday

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EAST KENT EDITION

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Barnes wins PCC election but turnout underlines public apathy

By **Marijke Cox**

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PUBLIC apathy towards the biggest shake-up to policing in decades has been confirmed with a measly 16.3 per cent of Kent voters turning out to the Police and Crime Commissioner polls.

As Ann Barnes stormed to victory – winning the majority of first choice votes in every one of Kent's 13 districts – local government chiefs were left shaking their heads at the disappointing turnout, which saw just over 208,000 of Kent's 1.2 million electorate casting their vote.

Critics say a lack of communication and understanding of what the election was about was to blame.

Chair of the Kent Police Federation, which represents rank and file officers, Ian Pointon, said: "From the start it was a huge mistake to hold the PCC

election in November when there are no other elections going on.

"Whether it was about the lack of information about candidates or funding issues, I don't know.

"Many people I have spoken to didn't really have a clue who the candidates were.

"There seems to be a communication breakdown about the role of the PCC.

"It's not been communicated very well. The 16 per cent turnout sends a message in itself.

"If elections are held in May next time the weather will be warmer, people may be going out to vote in another election, the turnout would maybe improve."

The independent Mrs Barnes, ironically the former chair of the Kent Police Authority which the PCC replaces, saw off stiff competition from Tory Craig Mackinlay.

See inside for full election round-up



Picture: DEAN KILPATRICK

ALL SMILES: Independent candidate Ann Barnes dominated the polls to win race

WELFARE

Animals pay price of slump

UNWANTED pets have become the latest victims of the recession as animal charities admit they are at breaking point. As the number of cats, dogs and horses being dumped by cash-strapped families rockets, the amount of donations to keep them afloat have plummeted. **PAGE 7**

TRAVEL

KLM launches Manston route

MANSTON is to become the gateway to the world after a new service was officially unveiled this week. The route to Amsterdam's Schiphol airport will see £99 return flights, allowing travellers to catch connecting services to places such as the US, Africa and Asia. **PAGE 9**

CELEBRITY

Luxury stay for superstars

HOLLYWOOD A-listers Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie stayed in a £3,000-a-week luxury barn conversion in a Kent village recently, it has now been confirmed. Mr Pitt was in the county shooting scenes for upcoming movie World War Z. Full details of their visit and photos inside. **PAGE 19**

Snow White
and the Seven Dwarfs

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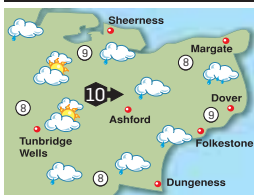
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Weather



TODAY: After a frosty start, it will be a dry with sunny spells. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F). **TONIGHT:** Mainly dry with clear spells. Min temp 3-6C (37-43F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	01.31	6.7	13.57	6.5
Margate	02.22	4.8	14.58	4.8
St Mary's	07.28	5.7	19.55	5.2

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 11C	Min 7C
Tuesday	Max 12C	Min 8C
Wednesday	Max 12C	Min 7C
Thursday	Max 12C	Min 7C
Friday	Max 12C	Min 6C
Saturday	Max 12C	Min 5C

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PCC ELECTION

A Barnes-storming victory as



Reporting team

Marijke Cox, Chrissie Daniels and Dean Kilpatrick

HISTORY was made this week with the election of Kent's first Police and Crime Commissioner.

As the results slowly trickled in from across the county's districts to Dover Town Hall, the message from the public was loud and clear: this role should not be political.

Every district saw independent Ann Barnes storm to victory in the first count of the supplementary vote system, with the former Kent Police Authority chair securing 45.9 per cent of the overall vote.

Second in the race was Conservative Craig Mackinlay with 24.7 per cent.

But with no-one reaching that all important 50 per cent mark, it went to a second count.

Before this was even a third of the way through, it was clear Mrs Barnes had secured victory.

While the nail-biting second count took place, she thanked her supporters.

"I'm so grateful for the warm support all my friends, supporters and my campaign team have given me," she said.

Speaking to KoS as the votes were counted, Mr Mackinlay said: "We are not getting the results we would have liked across the county."

"Turnout is lower than even we expected and that has been reflected elsewhere across the county."

"People did not know what the police authority did and as an election, people found it hard to engage."

"People seem to have leaned towards the independent message, however flawed it is."

"Politics and the police have always been intertwined."

Mr Mackinlay also commented on the low turnout, where just 16.3 per cent of the electorate voted.

"We were surprised at how low local turnout was while out on foot yesterday," he said.

"When people get home and it's dark they're not going to go out and vote."

He added: "The real thing coming out of the

Turnout was poor, but former Kent Police Authority chair Ann Barnes' victory was decisive as the county elected her its first-ever Police and Crime Commissioner



FIRST LADY:

Ann Barnes will be sworn in as Kent's first Police and Crime Commissioner after defeating the five other candidates in Thursday's elections

results is the loss of Labour votes.

"This is a county they will need to form the next government."

The election results saw Labour generally come third. Independent candidate Dai Liyanage failed to gain the support he had hoped for and Ukup's Piers Wauchope was unable to make much impact on the Tory vote.

Mrs Barnes as PCC will be responsible for governing the local police force and holding the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Kent Police.

She will have the power to hire and fire the Chief Constable, draw up and publish a police and crime plan, set the policing priorities and detail how and where money is spent.

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth will remain re-



sponsible for operational matters at Kent Police and Mrs Barnes will hold the force to account and "be the voice of the people".

She will pick up an £85,000 salary, hold a four year term and be able to recruit a team to work around her.

When Mrs Barnes announced her candidacy earlier this year she said she would recruit a young person to be the Kent Police Youth Commissioner to be the eyes and ears of young people in the county.

The PCC's activities will be scrutinised by the Police and Crime Panel, made up of councillors from all the districts in Kent and a number of independent members.

They will have the power to veto decisions on the local precept and the appointment of a new

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